



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

June 2004 Volume 65 Number 6

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



**Field Day is June 26 – 27**  
**Regular site at exit 5 is confirmed**



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421  
See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

## Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

## Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Callbook 04 Editor Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair' man - NEEDED		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### TAKE-15 NET:

Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on  
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

### CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -



### PACKET:

VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE  
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS  
accessible through the LAN

A ham radio emergency preparedness event is being planned for a Saturday in late September or October 2004. This will be a chance to practice our skills; become familiar with the EOC's equipment & setup; plan what to do when 2m transmissions interfere with hospital equipment or with air to ground communications with a hovering helicopter. **Plan to take part.** Barry has asked Tom, VE1GTC, to do most of the planning

The **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our program will be Field Day planning. Guests are welcome.

## Take-15 Net Controllers

**NOTE:** There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



June	13	Tom	VE1GTC
June	20	Doug	VE1LDL
June	27	Dave	VE1EDA
July	4	Herb	VE1HX
July	11	Charles	VE1MCR
July	18	Chris	VA1CDB
July	25	Pierre	VE1PTR
Aug.	1	Herb	VE1HX
Aug.	8	Tom	VE1GTC
Aug.	15	Doug	VE1LDL
Aug.	22	Dave	VE1EDA
Aug.	29	Charles	VE1MCR
Sept.	5	Herb	VE1HX
Sept.	12	Chris	VA1CDB
Sept.	19	Pierre	VE1PTR

**Deadline for submissions to the  
September Reflector is  
Saturday, Sept. 4, 2004**

*Events for Your '04 Calendar***Field Day 2004** – June 26 - 27

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July - IOTA - *Scott, Howard & Dick plan to operate from Tancook Island*

July &amp; August – Pizza Nights

August 7 - DX forum at (VE1QD) Scott's home. An AM DX session &amp; a PM session with a Bar-B-Q at noon

August – NSARA Picnic

August – Lunenburg Steak &amp; Salmon Supper (insurance permitting)

August 14 & 15 – MS Bike Tour  
Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to get involved.August 21-22 – International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend 2004  
0001 UTC Saturday, Aug. 21 until 2359 UTC on Sunday, August 22. See the article in the April Reflector.

The World Lighthouse Day is held on the Sunday of the event and lighthouse keepers/managers/caretakers all around the world open their lighthouses to the public.

For more information see

[http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/  
events/intlighthouseday.html](http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseday.html)*(Scott, Howard & Dick plan to put Peggy's Cove light on the air and demonstrate Amateur radio to Peggy's Cove visitors.)*

Fall – EMO workshop

October – VHF/UHF Contest

October – JOTA

December - Christmas party

The 6th annual Search & Rescue Competition will take place Sept. 9 to 11, **2005**. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.**A Basic ham course** this fall will be coordinated by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD. Contact him at 823-2024, or [dhedickson@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:dhedickson@hfx.eastlink.ca)The HRM EMO/ham Advisory Committee Web page is at [www.ve1hre.ca](http://www.ve1hre.ca)David, VE1EDA conducts an **EMO NET** each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM).

The goal of the net is to keep all Amateur's informed on any news about EMO and to increase the interest in emergency preparedness.

A key lesson learned from one of our EMO exercise is that VHF communication in a hospital environment is fraught with challenges due to the hospital equipment and other sources of interference. Furthermore, two meter frequencies are close enough to the communications used by MEDEVAC helicopters to cause problems.

**Note:** An emergency preparedness event is being planned for the fall.From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 20  
May 14, 2004**25 YEARS OF OPERATION  
FROM THE QUEEN MARY**

W6RO, the Amateur Radio station in the Wireless Room of the Queen Mary, recently celebrated 25 years of continuous operation. Permanently berthed at the Port of Long Beach, "The Queen" is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Southern California. During its 25 years of operation, W6RO has presented a positive image of Amateur Radio to more than four million visitors.

W6RO is the club call sign of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, an ARRL Special Service Club. At the center of operations is Nate Brightman, K6OSC, who has spearheaded Amateur Radio aboard the Queen Mary.

Nearly 100 amateurs volunteer at least 4 hours a month to operate W6RO from 9 AM until 5 PM daily. W6RO also is a regular stop on the Queen Mary self-guided tour, and licensed visitors may log in and get on the air.

Web site: [http://www.  
mpicomputers.com/ham/queen/](http://www.mpicomputers.com/ham/queen/)**Field Day site** has been confirmed for the Exit 5 (on the 103) site. Gear checkout will be June 13, Sunday at 1300 hours

Gear pickup will be June 23

*Your help is needed –ed.*The Summerside ARC will hold the **PEI Fleamarket on July 10.**Time: beginning at 10AM.Location: the Charlottetown Flying Club Building adjacent to the Charlottetown Airport on Route 15.Cost - \$3.00 at the door and

\$5.00 for a sellers table.

For tables or further info contact Bill, VY2FF at

[vy2ff@summersidearc.com](mailto:vy2ff@summersidearc.com)

or Rodney, VY2CGA at

[vy2cga@rac.ca](mailto:vy2cga@rac.ca).

There is a restaurant on site so breakfast, coffee &amp; lunch will be available.

<http://www.summersidearc.com>**The Incoming QSL Bureau** may have cards for you. If you want them you must have a little money deposited with the Bureau to cover the cost of envelopes, labels, postage & handling. And of course your correct mailing address. Send to the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau  
P.O. Box 8895  
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5**The APRS group** – The next meeting will be July 14 at 7:30 in the club station. – Dave, VE1EDA*"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast." -- Unknown***E-mail Greeting**

Hi Bill, Its been a long time, just wanted to send a quick note to see how HARC is doing. I check out the website every now and then. Please pass my 73's to all in Halifax.

Walter Rawle/VE1AWS  
Virginia Beach VA USA  
[wrawle@amti.net](mailto:wrawle@amti.net)  
[www.amti.net](http://www.amti.net)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE June 2004**

Here it is June, and as I write this summer has not yet arrived and it has been a cold and wet May, not conducive to antenna work. I was also down with the flue for a while and am just now getting back into the swing of things.

The Flea Market was a success as well as excellent sales of the new call book. We are currently looking for a chairman for next year's flea market. The date has been set for June 4<sup>th</sup> 2005. Early planning and publicity are important. It is not too early for planning and publicity, also perhaps an early start would allow planning more and different events at the flea market such as a fox hunt or perhaps a Saturday evening banquet and/or a Sunday Brunch. Plan a weekend event with many activities starting Friday evening and wrapping up Sunday noon. Any one up to plan such an event?

Check the upcoming events on page 2, I plan to attend as many of these events as I possibly can, including the pizza nights at the club the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of July and August.

Also during the summer and fall it is planned with the NRASA to greatly improve and expand the Nova Scotia terrestrial linking system. Listen for new repeaters and areas coming on line later in the summer.

Field Day will be later this month and while the executive and Craig, VE1JMA are co-ordinating it this year, we need a co-ordinator for next year. The co-ordinator is the person who makes sure each person who volunteers for a task is actually doing it. The co-ordinator often does not need to take on any tasks, but to find people to take on a particular task. There are many people in the club who volunteer to do things for Field Day, so the co-ordinators job is usually quite easy. Come to this year's Field Day and see what goes on with the object of being next year's co-ordinator.

See else where in the newsletter for some of what is being planned for this year's Field Day.

A new class will be starting early September, Howard, VE1DHD is co-ordinating. If you know of any one who is interested in becoming licensed please have them contact Howard.

Enjoy the summer, be safe and we will see you in September if not at some of the summer events.

73 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

**NOTICE**

The Reflector is now available in PDF format. Those wishing to save the club printing and postage can request to receive it by E-mail and print it off on their own printer.

Send request to Lynn Bowser at: [ve1ent@rac.ca](mailto:ve1ent@rac.ca)

**FIELD DAY TASKS**

- \* Loading and transportation of gear to site.
- \* Checking gear beforehand - Towers, antennas, feedlines, stakes, bits and pieces, tents
- \* Organize radio and associated gear - radios and accessories ( clocks, lamps, power bars, etc. )
- \* Logging - software, computers, training, testing
- \* Scrap paper and pencils for operating positions
- \* Site acquisition/permission
- \* Arrange borrowed equipment - EMO trailer, GSAR vehicle(s), generators
- \* Food and food preparation - purchase food, arrange menus, cooking paraphernalia
- \* Operators and loggers - CW, SSB, GOTA, other
- \* Setup crew
- \* Take down crew
- \* Bonus points coordinator
- \* Safety person
- \* SSB station setup - where, what gear
- \* CW station setup - where, what gear
- \* VHF/UHF station setup - where, what gear
- \* Satellite station setup - where, what gear
- \* Gota station setup - where, what gear
- \* Transportation of gear from site and unloading.



While these are some of the most important tasks they are not all of them, we have volunteers for a few of the other tasks not listed. We need people to co-ordinate and help the co-ordinators with these tasks, if you can help please contact an executive member of a co-ordinator once we have identified them.

**Notice** to all subscribers of the 'Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin' produced by hfradio.net, due to a system failure of both computers caused by as lightning hit at hfradio.net we have lost our database list of subscribers. If you wish to continue receiving the weekly bulletin please send e-mail to [webmaster@hfradio.net](mailto:webmaster@hfradio.net) with the word subscribe in the subject line.

73 Jim Taylor VA3KU, Bulletin Editor  
[www.hfradio.net](http://www.hfradio.net)

The club is going to have a **packet revival** meeting some time this fall.

Meanwhile, read the packet information on the Lincoln (Nebraska) Amateur Radio Club web site <http://www.larc.unl.edu/packet/>

Rick, VE1RGG, Second Vice President

*If you cross a chorus girl with a computer, do you get a calculating blond??*



## DownEast Fleamarket 2004



Durham Radio brought merchandise in a trailer towed behind a car bristling with antennas



Shoppers & Browsers lined up in May 15th sunshine for the opening of the doors at 1000.



Winner VE1GIN with her door prize, a new ICOM hand-held radio



*I don't suffer from insanity, I enjoy it.*

The Downeast Fleamarket is a joint production by the Halifax ARC & the Dartmouth ARC. In the early 1920's & 1930's the Maritime Amateur Radio Club existed. In 1933 the name was changed to the Halifax Amateur Radio Club.

*If you know when any other Maritime ARCs were formed, especially the Dartmouth ARC, please let me know so the information can be put in the Reflector. -ed.*

### Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates: Full = \$25 Associate = \$15  
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)



Fleamarket Committee Chariman Ed, VE1EGG, chats with Dave, VE1ADH, & John Tenier outside the RAC tutorial room

*If you are considering working on the Get On The Air (GOTA) station on **Field Day** this letter from Craig, VE1JMA, should interest you. Craig sent the letter to the newest hams but the GOTA station is also intended to entice those hams who have been inactive so he'd be pleased to hear from you as well -ed.*

Dear all,

My name is Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA. I have been licensed and a club member since 1994, and have been involved in many different aspects of our hobby.

This year, Field Day will be held on the weekend of June 26th. This annual contest brings together individual ham radio operators and clubs from across North America and is designed to test their abilities to set-up and operate an emergency station in the field. The skills that local hams have acquired during Field Day have been put to use in a wide range of situations from the Swissair disaster in 1998 to providing communications support in the wake of Hurricane Juan last year.

Aside from this important task, Field Day offers the chance for new and experienced amateurs to meet each other, learn about new operating modes, and experience the excitement of amateur radio contesting. In past years the Club has ranked within the top scores in the 2A class in the Canadian and North American standings.

HARC will again be organizing the Get On The Air tent this year. **GOTA** provides new and inactive amateurs the opportunity to get experience in contesting in a more relaxed environment. The aim here is to learn and have fun. We will contribute to HARC's total score after our first 100 contacts but will operate a separate station under my call. You don't have to be HF qualified to participate.

In preparation for GOTA activities, we will be holding an orientation session before Field Day at the club station. The evening will be devoted to a familiarization of the radio we'll be using, mock contest exchanges and contest logging procedures.

I hope you all will come out to this year's GOTA. Please contact me at VE1JMA@rac.ca or by phone at 463-8517 if you would like to join this year's GOTA team.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

73 de Craig, VE1JMA

The club has ordered the **Anderson Powerpole connectors** and they are available now. The price to members will be \$1.25 each ( this is a red and black connector for one complete end ). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. To preorder your supply please contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at: [tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)  
If we have extra then we may offer them to non members at a slightly higher price.

K6KPH to transmit **Field Day message**.

*Let's make sure we copy this ... It's worth points! -ed.*



The ARRL Contest Branch page is at

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

And <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.html>

**Be Prepared!** Do you live in a forested area? With the upcoming warmer and dryer weather, and all of the downed trees from Juan, an increased incidence of forest and brush fires is anticipated this summer. You could be ordered to evacuate your home on short notice because it is in the path of a fire. Plan ahead! What you'll want and need to take with you should be either pre-packed or easy to grab quickly (change of clothes, medications, pets, ID's, perhaps camping gear, and certainly cash, etc)

Amateurs are reminded to keep batteries charged and emergency equipment at the ready in the event that they are called to assist with fire emergencies this summer

**HARC Tube Bank** Anyone looking for a particular tube or tubes should contact the Tube Bank Managers Amy Cohoon, Ashley Cohoon or Kim Carter by e-mail at [tubes@37.com](mailto:tubes@37.com)  
or snail mail: 99 Hyson Point Rd.

Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0

There is a nominal charge if we can supply the tube wanted. Shipping/mailing is extra..



September 7-12., 2004 - the 12th ARDF World Championships will be held in the Czech Republic

*Learn from the mistakes of others.*

*You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.*

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 20 May 14, 2004 **DXCC DX**  
The following operations have been accredited for DXCC: Burundi, 9U5M, February 4-March 17, 2003; Chad, TT8XZ, December 4-19, 2003; Iraq, YI/N3YPI, August 22, 2003 through present; YI/AB8DY, July 2, 2003 through present; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9Q0AR, January 1-March 31, 2004; 9Q1KS, January 1-March 31, 2004; Haiti, HH2SJR, January 1, 1998-present; Rivellagigedo, XF4IH, March 3-20, 2004. For more information on the ARRL DXCC program--including rules, current and deleted DXCC lists and all forms needed to participate--visit the DXCC Web site  
<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>



## Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of May 19, 2004

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1935 hrs Wednesday, May 19th 2004.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president; Rick Gardner (VE1RGG) – Second Vice-president; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member at Large.

Silent Keys:

None reported, however condolences were expressed to Frank, VE1FK, on the passing of his wife.

Guests:

Garry – VE1RGB; Bruce – VE1NB; John – VE1JS; Jim – VE1JF.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of 21 April 2004:

Approval of the April Monthly Meeting minutes as published in the May 2004 Reflector was moved by Bob (VE1PQ) and seconded by Dave (VE1EDA). Motion carried.

### Executive Reports:

Treasurer's Report – in John's (VE1CDD) absence, Bill (VE1MR) reported a bank balance of \$9,155.66 with \$3,933.33 in outstanding cheques for a total of \$5,222.33. Bill reported that the Basic Ham Course lost money this year, but when left-over course materials that will be used next year are taking into account the club made a small profit on the Ham Course (\$43.27). Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Judy (VE1NAN) and seconded by Lynn (VE1ENT). Motion carried.

President –

Field Day – Bill reminded the membership about the upcoming Field Day. While the Club Executive have agreed to take on the task of organising this event, there is still the need for individuals to come forward to assist with the Field Day chores that were outlined in the May Reflector.

Bill indicated that a final decision of the location for Field Day this year has not yet been made, but will be within the next couple of weeks.

Bill also reported receiving an email from Walter Rawle VE1AWS, now in Virginia; Walter wished greetings be passed to Club members.

1st Vice-President – Fraser (VE1WO) informed the membership that he had learned from discussions with Durham Radio at the Flea Market of their positive experience this year and Fraser felt confident that they would return in 2005.

### Committee Reports:

Search & Rescue Competition – Dave (VE1AJP) reported that a recent national S&R survey concluded that over 50% of S&R teams utilise Amateur Radio for communication purposes. Dave informed the membership that local S&R teams would be taking part in a mock search on Monday May 24th to test out APRS capabilities.

EMO – Dave reminded all amateurs that with the upcoming warmer and dryer weather, and all of the downed trees from Juan, that there is a strong likelihood of an increased incidence of forest and brush fires this summer. Amateurs are reminded to keep batteries charged and emergency equipment at the ready in the event that they are called to assist with fire emergencies this summer.

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported a total membership of 124 to this date – 107 Full; 15 Associate; & 2 Life.

Flea Market – Bill reported on behalf of the Flea Market Committee, indicating that the attendance this year was up slightly over 2003 with a total of 400 attendees, including both sellers and buyers. There were two commercial displays – Durham Radio and ALQ Communications and both seemed to be very busy throughout the morning.

2004 Callbook Report – Howard (VE1DHD) – Callbook Editor) re-

ported that the Flea Market release of the 2004 edition of the Maritime Provinces Callbook was a success, with 782 books sold. Howard expressed his appreciation for the strong support received from the Callbook Production Team members.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

### Announcements:

Dave (VE1ADH) reported that he had a 10meter beam in need of some repair that he was prepared to give away.

50:50 Draw – \$12.50 won by Bruce (VE1NB)



Door Prize – a large plastic tool box was won by Judy (VE1NAN) – Crimping Tool Set.

On a motion by Karen (VE1KHP) the meeting adjourned at 2005 hrs.

### Evening Entertainment –

The evening entertainment was provided by Jim Fisher (VE1JF) of Victoria Beach, Digby County, "with a little help from his friends" in the form of testimonials.

Jim received his first Ham license in 1956 – operating as W8JF in Kansas. He has always been interested in contesting but an experience at multi-op contesting that he had in Pennsylvania as a guest operator at K3ANS got him hooked and when he and his wife Hannelore relocated to Nova Scotia in 1998 following retirement, Jim decided to build a "super contesting station". During his talk, Jim described the organization of, and history behind the establishment of his Super Contest Station in Nova Scotia.

Jim's fantastic multi-operator contesting station consists of two virtually identical operating positions with FT-1000MP transceivers; Alpha 87A amplifiers, and a really impressive antenna system consisting of three stacked Force-12 Yagis antennas. The beams are located at the 37, 75 and 112-foot level of his supported tower, but because the location is atop a 200

(Continued on page 7)

*Minutes (Continued from page 6)*

ft cliff overlooking the Bay of Fundy, the effective height of the top beam is over 300 feet, and provides a great take-off angle to the west over about 180 degrees of salt water. This impressive stack covers 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters and there are separate feed lines not only for each beam, but for each band on each beam! The gain that is achieved over water with all three beams aligned is awesome to say the very least! An impressive four-square array covers 80 metres and is capable of being electrically focused in any one of four directions. For 160, Jim uses a sloper on the tower. The logging software that Jim uses is Writelog and the computers are all tied together and are fed real-time spotting data from the internet DX-clusters.

Jim is rapidly building a reputation here on the East Coast and generously invites amateurs from around the region, and as far afield as California, to join him in some pretty impressive contesting. Dick (VE1AI), Scott (VE1QD), Bill (VE1MR) and Howard (VE1DHD) have all had the privilege of being guest operators. Howard's comments following his first exposure to this high level of contesting sophistication were – "Although I am relatively new to Amateur Radio the excitement of contesting appeals to my competitive nature. Nevertheless, it was with some trepidation that I agreed to join Jim and colleagues in the 2003 ARRL DX SSB competition. The level of complexity of the equipment (radios, amplifiers, computers and antennas) in this station is somewhat overwhelming at first. However, Jim is a wonderfully patient teacher and quickly made me feel very much at ease with the technology. Without question, this hands-on, short-course was the best I have ever had as far as the theory and practice of contesting is concerned. I was very pleased to be invited back in 2004 and am looking forward to 2005 already.

Respectfully submitted by Howard  
Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 20, May 14, 2004

**Amateur Radio Administration Course in Iran:** In response to an invitation from the administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ**, representing International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3, and **Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA**, representing the IARU International Secretariat, visited Iran to present a three-day Amateur Radio Administration Course April 26-28. Since the early 1980s this course has been conducted by IARU in various forms all over the world and in response to invitations from administrations to train regulators and prospective regulators in the administering of the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services. Related objectives include managing disaster relief communications and organizing an Amateur Radio society. The course in Tehran was arranged by the Directorate General of Telecommunications. Presentations included PowerPoint displays prepared by the IARU. (16 participants) The two IARU visitors spoke with many radio amateurs in Tehran. The course participants visited EP3PTT, a station established on the Ministry's premises in Tehran. The equipment in this station was received by Iran from the IARU Region 3 Stars program. It may be operated by licensed Iranian operators by arrangement. Contact between IARU and the amateurs and the administration of Iran will continue. --IARU

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 20, May 14, 2004

#### COGNITIVE RADIO TECHNOLOGY PROPOSALS

The ARRL says it generally supports the proposals contained in an FCC NPRM&O, ET Docket 03-108 relating to so-called cognitive radio (CR) technology. But the League urged the FCC to avoid large-scale deployment of CR technology--and especially of unlicensed devices in spectrum regularly used by licensed services--"until further experience with the technology is obtained." The ARRL also strenuously objected to a proposal to allow cognitive radio technology devices to operate under Part 15 in "rural areas" at up to a sixfold increase in the currently permitted power level in several UHF bands that include amateur allocations.

The League's comments said, "the practical radio horizon at higher Part 15 power levels makes interference with the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite service operations in many frequency bands inevitable." The FCC seeks to allow a transmitter power increase of up to 6 times (approximately 8 dB) higher than current limits in the 902-928, 2400-2483.5 & 5725-5825 MHz bands and in the 24 GHz band.

The League said the Commission

should not view cognitive radio as an opportunity to increase permissible Part 15 power levels "without the slightest real-world test deployment" of the systems it wants to authorize.

A "cognitive radio" is one that "can change its transmitter parameters based on interaction with the environment in which it operates," the FCC's NPRM&O says. "This interaction may involve active negotiation or communications with other spectrum users and/or passive sensing & decision making within the radio."

"There is no need for separate rules regarding cognitive and software defined radios," the ARRL said, calling both "an excellent opportunity" to drive technological advancement within Amateur Radio. "They should and can be regulated within the existing rules." The ARRL also urged the FCC to avoid creating regulatory obstacles that would hamper "experimentation and flexibility in conducting amateur operations."

"These technologies will allow ever-greater participation by amateurs in restoration of communications systems following a wide-area emergency or disaster and in conducting disaster relief efforts on site in coordination with served agencies," the League predicted. The ARRL expects most cognitive radios will be software defined radios (SDRs),



Working on a **Digital Communication Project**  
Pat, VE1PHK, David, VE1EDA, Fraser,  
VE1WO, John, VE1CDD and John, VE1DD



The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK E-mail [velphk@rac.ca](mailto:velphk@rac.ca) This is to prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it. **So booking with Pat is a must!!**

#### HARC **Digital Communication Special Interest Group**

Interested in Digital Communication? The structure of the group's activities and endeavours is very loose and aims to address topics like interfacing computers and amateur gear as well as communicating via digital modes on VHF, HF and UHF. We will attempt to experiment with as many digital modes, software and hardware as possible.

The more people who are involved, the greater the fun and the learning

Come and join us. Everyone is welcome! No previous experience required! If you're interested, please contact me at [velcdd@rac.ca](mailto:velcdd@rac.ca) or by phone (865-5731). The next get-together will be June 21 at 7:30 in the club station

73 John VE1CDD

#### From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 45 **The End of the Trail for UO-14**

Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PACSAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite. It became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat."

"Since launch, UO-14 has completed over 72,000 orbits and as many charge/discharge cycles of its on-board NiCd battery," said AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. "Recently one of the battery cells has become exhausted and can no longer support continuous operation of the repeater." as UO-14's transmitter shuts down shortly after it is commanded "on" due to undervoltage, so the microsatellite's mission has been terminated.

During its active lifetime, UO-14 served several roles. After some 18 months as a PACSAT, UO-14 was switched to non-amateur frequencies for humanitarian use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, which used it for messaging into Africa. After the store-and-forward communications computer proved no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 was turned back to amateur use as a single-channel FM voice repeater.

UO-14 served a humanitarian role in early 2001 when hams assisting with earthquake relief operations in the Indian State of Gujarat took advantage of the satellite to provide communication from the stricken region.

UO-14 required minimal gear to make contacts--typically 5W and modest antennas would do. Operators with dualband handheld transceivers and "rubber duckie" antennas often could make QSOs via UO-14.

*There are worse things than getting  
a call for a wrong number at 4AM. ...  
It could be a right number.*

The complete--and official--rules for Field Day are available on the ARRL Web site  
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/>



More on Broadband over Power Lines (BPL). By Brad Rosenberg. Power lines bring energy to homes all across America, but soon they could carry high-speed Internet service as well. On June 1, federal (US) proposed rules for Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) go into effect. At that point, power companies can sell broadband services over power lines in every market in the United States.

Several power companies from North Carolina to California have launched trial programs in the past year, providing Internet service to customers through modems plugged into their electrical outlets at a charge of roughly \$30 to \$40 per month.

Ham-radio operators are deeply worried about the technology, arguing BPL causes enough radio interference to block out radio frequencies of fire and police departments, and other emergency services. "It's like listening to a symphony next to a jackhammer," complains Jim Micholis, a Wayne, Pa., ham radio operator who has witnessed several BPL tests.

Overseas, BPL tests were halted because of interference. A new technical report, due to be released in a few weeks, will address the interference issue and offer evidence for both sides of the debate.

Most electronic devices create radio disturbance in some way, from fluorescent lights to cable Internet. But BPL stands out because it uses unshielded power lines to carry the Internet signal, says Jim Haynie, president of the ARRL. "In each and every instance where we have gone to the test sites and done our measurements and used our instruments, we have found that [BPL] will interfere ... to the point where we can't hear anything."

The FCC disputes that contention. It requested and got feedback from the radio league, and drafted BPL rules to meet its complaints. "Our responsibility is to make sure that ... when some new use of the radio spectrum occurs, it doesn't create interference, and we have," says Ed

Thomas, chief engineer for the FCC. He maintains that the commission has yet to find any evidence of BPL interfering with nearby radios.

Proponents expect BPL to be a cheaper alternative for consumers who have relied on cable and telephone companies for high-speed Internet service. Allen Shark, president & CEO of the Power Lines Communications Association says "The prices that we're starting to see are less than \$30 a month."

BPL will provide Internet service to areas where cable companies do not operate. Wherever there's a power line, [BPL] has the potential to get a data service to go to areas that have been underserved.

"utility company Cinergy Corp. "BPL will also encourage innovative technology, proponents say. "If every power plug in your house becomes a broadband connection, that means that almost anything you plug into the wall can connect to the Internet," says Thomas of the FCC. "That means that your refrigerator can have a meaningful conversation with the supermarket and say, 'Hi, I need milk.' Or you could call your house and say, 'I'm coming home in two hours, turn the air conditioner on.' It's only restricted by imagination."

So far, ham operators have few allies (publicly) to help them keep the FCC rules from going into effect. While police and other emergency-services could be affected, they have not tested it.

"We would be concerned if it did interfere with our communications, because those are critical, and involve lifesaving situations," says Steve Cohler, spokesman for the California Highway Patrol. But while the organization "is aware of BPL," it does not know "the impact it would have on [its] communications capabilities."

The US Federal Emergency Management Administration is also looking into BPL, but it has not yet come to a definite conclusion, says

spokeswoman LeaAnne McBride.

Other nations, however, have already made up their mind. "A brilliant idea but if you give it a more technical, detailed look, it falls apart," says Diethard Hansen, the external chairman of the advisory group on BPL to RegTP, Germany's FCC equivalent. "It suffers the enormous risk of uncontrolled interference to everyone."

During test trials of BPL in Britain and Japan, Mr. Hansen says, interference was so strong that they pulled the plug on BPL.

"In Manchester [England], they failed miserably in the shortwave frequency bands because the streetlights started working as antennas," he says. "In Japan, they had limited field trials in Osaka & Tokyo and interference got out of control. They had to stop it."

But proponents don't seem worried. "What was banned in Japan is very old technology," says Thomas.

Mr. Shark says that BPL didn't work in Europe because of an electrical grid that uses more voltage - and a political system overly influenced by would-be BPL competitors.

Within a few weeks, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is expected to issue its report on the feasibility of BPL in the US.

*Thanks to Chris, VA1CDB for forwarding this along*

From:  
Canadian\_Amateur\_Radio\_Group  
Courtesy of Chris, VA1CDB  
**Election Results for IARU President and Vice President** In voting completed March 16, the member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) overwhelmingly ratified the re-election of **Larry E. Price, W4RA, as President**, and the election of **Timothy S. Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, as Vice President**, for 5-year terms beginning May 9, 2004. Mr. Ellam succeeds Dr. David A. Wardlaw, VK3ADW, who served as Vice President since 1999 but was not available for another term.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 14  
April 9, 2004

# **FCC FINES RESTAURANT FOR LONG-RANGE TELEPHONE USE**

A New Jersey restaurant is facing a \$10,000 fine from the FCC for operating transmitting equipment on 2 meters without a license. The case involves Best Wok in Westville, which apparently had been using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle. The FCC says the telephone in question--said to have been obtained outside the US and not FCC certificated--operated within the 2-meter satellite subband at 145.8376 MHz. Acting on a tip, the FCC conducted an investigation that resulted in the issuance of a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to Best Wok. While the case dates back to 2001, the FCC asserted that the restaurant had violated the Communications Act as recently as early 2003.

"On February 28, 2003, Best Wok operated radio transmitting equipment on the Two-Meter Amateur Radio Service frequency 145.8376 MHz," the FCC said. "Neither Best Wok nor any of its employees held a license to operate a station in the Amateur Radio Service Band." In 2001, following numerous complaints from the amateur community, the ARRL asked the FCC to investigate and "take appropriate action" against several companies it alleged were marketing similar telephone devices via the Internet.

After issuing a couple of warning notices, an FCC agent visited Westville in February 2003 "to determine if Best Wok was operating radio transmitting equipment" on 2 meters. Using direction-finding techniques, the agent pinned down the source of the transmissions to Best Wok.

According to the FCC, the agent visited the establishment and inspected the radio transmitting equipment in the presence of restaurant manager Sae C. Hauwo. "The agent found that Best Wok was operating a long-distance cordless telephone system,"

the FCC said. The Commission says Hauwo told the agent he installed the long-range cordless telephone system so that his employees could answer customers' telephone calls while making deliveries.

Hauwo said that after the restaurant got the second written warning, it stopped using the long-range telephone and purchased a set of Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) radios that operated on 154.600 MHz. But the MURS units failed to provide sufficient coverage, the FCC says Hauwo told the agent, so Best Wok resumed using the long-distance cordless telephone system..

## **From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 47 USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club will host the 2004 USA **Amateur Radio Direction Finding** (ARDF) Championships. ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said the 4th annual USA ARDF event will be held in June in California.

"Radio-orienteers from all over the country plus visitors from abroad are expected to attend. The competitive courses are open to anyone of any age from any country, with or without an Amateur Radio license."

Medals will be awarded in 5 age categories for male competitors and 4 for female competitors, in accordance with International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) rules. The competition which includes 80m. & 2m. events starts June 16.

The full-length 2-meter competition will take place June 18. The 80-meter competition will take place June 19.

An official Web site for the 2004 Championships will contain complete rules and technical details, including competition frequencies, registration & lodging information. Information about transmitter hunting and US ARDF activities is available on

<http://www.homingin.com>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, # 14

Amateur stations in New Zealand and Asiatic Russia are laying claim to a **new low-frequency world distance QSO record**. Bob Vernall, ZL2CA, told ARRL that ZM2E, near Wellington, New Zealand, and UA0LE, near Vladivostok, Russia, completed a two-way contact during the night of March 20 on 137.70 kHz.

"The path length, estimated to be 10,311 km is claimed as a new world record between amateur stations on LF bands," Vernall said. "For several hours signals received at ZM2E were so strong that they could be decoded 'by ear,' despite high peaks of QRN." By noting tone-on and tone-off times and checking them against a highly-accurate digital clock, the ZM2E operators at one point were able to decode the very slow-speed (QRSS) CW without resorting to Argo DSP software signal detection.

The Wellington Amateur Radio Club station at Quartz Hill uses the special ZM2E call sign for work in the 136-kHz band. A DXpedition station, UA0LE obtained permission to support its LF antennas from a 90-meter (295.3 feet) broadcast mast.

Vernall said UA0LE set up for a slow-speed CW beacon transmission on 137.7895 kHz using 60-second dits--known as QRSS60. "They used the shortened form of 'UATLE' to save time in sending," he explained. Because they need to be succinct, Vernall said, LF DX signal reports use the same "O," "M" and "T" signal reports <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/78518.pdf>> developed for moonbounce and other weak-signal communication.

On the big day, ZM2E started calling UA0LE at 0930 UTC--sunset in Vladivostok. The first good UA0LE signals showed up on the computer screen at 1030 UTC, Vernall said. "At 1650 UTC, we received 'ZM RO E,' The two stations continued the QSO for another hour or so.

See [www.aidrac.ca](http://www.aidrac.ca)